



The Toni Times

FROM THE DESK OF
COUNCILMEMBER TONI ATKINS

MAY 2008

THE STATE OF THE THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT *Councilmember Atkins reflects on the past, present and future*

On Thursday, April 24, 2008, Councilmember Atkins held the 2008 State of the District at the War Memorial Building in Balboa Park with well over 100 community members in attendance.

The evening began with performances from the Junior Theatre, followed by the presentation of colors by the San Diego Police Department's RSVP, the pledge of Allegiance by the San Diego Girl Scouts and a command performance of the national anthem by Girl Scout Timyra-Joi Beatty.

Community activist Steve Russell welcomed the attendees and emceed the evening. Special guests included the Honorable Dede Alpert, Mayor Jerry Sanders, Council President Scott Peters and Councilmembers Kevin Faulconer and Ben Hueso.

Councilmember Atkins spent nearly an hour discussing notable accomplishments over the past eight years including issues related to public safety, housing, utility undergrounding, infrastructure including streets and sidewalks, business districts, park and open space and urban canyons. In addition, she reviewed remaining priorities for the next seven months.

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STATE OF THE THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT ADDRESS

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Councilmember Atkins' priorities for the remaining seven months include:

- Closely monitoring the discussion regarding Balboa Park Governance
- Establishing a Balboa Park Centennial Committee
- Completing the work of the Homeless Task Force
- Initiating the Community Plan Update Process for Uptown/North Park/Golden Hill
- Initiating design of the Mission Hills/Hillcrest Library
- Initiating design of Fire Station 5 in Hillcrest and 17 in City Heights
- Confirming work plan for the rehabilitation of the Georgia Street Bridge
- Establish time line for the park behind the North Park Theatre
- Completing the playground improvements for Cherokee Park
- Break ground on the Thorn Street median improvements
- Completing the Aldine Drive Environmental Impact Report
- Completing the comfort station (bathroom) for Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park
- Initiating improvements to the Mock Building in Normal Heights
- Implementing the remaining joint uses with the School District to provide additional park space

Councilmember Atkins ended the evening by acknowledging all CD 3 communities and, along with Mayor Sanders and Council President Peters, presented the citizens of her district with a resolution celebrating their hard work and dedication for the past eight years. "I cannot thank each and every one of you in this room enough for your leadership, dedication and hard work," said Atkins. "It has been my honor to serve Council District Three."







Balboa Park War Memorial Building
3325 Zoo Drive, San Diego, CA 92101
Thursday, April 24, 2008 — 6:30 p.m.

DISTRICT THREE STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS



2008 RIVER DAYS: MAY 10th - 18th

Saturday, May 10th will kick-off the 2008 River Day's celebration, organized by the San Diego River Foundation in partnership with over 30 groups, organizations, and agencies. Over the span of two weekends, this annual event offers 36 different activities such as mountain hikes, beach clean-ups, festivals, nature walks, planting projects, and educational opportunities for all ages. Several events that might be of interest to you are highlighted below. For a complete listing of River Days events, call 619-297-7380 or visit www.sdriverdays.org.

May 17th 8 a.m. 5k Trail Run/Walk in Lakeside

Starts at Channel Road and Maplevue Street in Lakeside. Fee: \$20 in advance / \$25 event day. Host: Lakeside's River Park Conservancy

May 17th 9 a.m. Mission Valley River Cleanup at Pacific Highway

Help remove trash and paint out graffiti from along the San Diego River. This is a great event for families in a 4 acre area that is being restored. Host: I Love a Clean San Diego

May 17th 9 a.m. Nature Walks in Santee's Mast Park

Two walks are offered at 9AM and 10:30AM. Come along for a naturalist led walk in this beautiful part of the River. Bring your bird book! Meet at the Mast Park parking lot. Host: Friends of Santee's River Park

May 17th 9 a.m. Point Loma Native Plant Garden Open House and Tour

The flowers are in bloom! Visit this beautiful community garden. Naturalist led tours at 9AM and 11AM. Hosts: Friends of the Point Loma Native Plant Garden and San Diego River Park Foundation

May 17th 9 a.m. Buchanan Canyon Tour

Join a 1 hour naturalist led tour of the lovely Buchanan Canyon in University Heights. Learn about efforts to re-discover this and other canyons. Meet on Johnson Avenue between Lincoln & Hayes. Host: Friends of Buchanan Canyon

May 17th 9 a.m.—4 p.m. Explore Mission Trails Day

A full day of education programs, music, nature walks and much more. Hosts: Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, City of San Diego & City of Santee.

May 17th 9 a.m.—4 p.m. TierraFest Craft Fair

This is a great craft fair which is part of a complete weekend community celebration including parade and fireworks. 10595 Tierrasanta Blvd. Hosts: Tierrasanta Community Council, Tierrasanta Fire Safe Council and Tierrasanta Junior Women's Club

May 17th 9:30 a.m. Explore a Potential Trail Across Mission Valley

We will take a short trolley ride to view the canyons of Normal Heights before hiking to Ruffin Canyon for a tour. Meet at the Fenton Trolley Station. Host: Friends of Normal Heights Canyon

May 17th 11 a.m. El Monte Nature Park

Visit a major River Restoration project in Lakeside's El Monte Valley. Approximately 700 acres of restoration, trails and river park amenities. Hosts: Endangered Habitats Conservancy in partnership with Helix Water District and Hanson Aggregates. 13950 El Monte Road, Lakeside.

May 17th 12 p.m.—2 p.m. Mission Valley Library Riverfest

Join the Friends of the Mission Valley Library for a celebration of River Days with live music. Bring a picnic lunch and listen to the sounds of the Bayou Brothers in the library garden. 2123 Fenton Parkway. Host: Friends of the Mission Valley Library

May 17th 1 p.m. Nature Writing Workshop at the Point Loma Native Plant Garden

Dive into a Nature Writing Workshop to discover the beauty of nature and the abundance of your own creativity! This is a great event for kids. Hosts: Jan Wellik and the Friends of the Point Loma Garden

May 17th 1 p.m. Famosa Slough Bird and Nature Walk

Bird watchers and nature lovers are invited for a nature walk at the Famosa Slough wetlands. Meet on Famosa Boulevard, south of West Point Loma Boulevard. Bring binoculars if you have them. Host: Friends of Famosa Slough

May 18th 9 a.m. Cedar Creek Hike from San Diego Country Estates

Hike a moderate to strenuous 4.5 mile hike to the incredible 80 foot tall Cedar Creek Falls. Bring plenty of water. RSVP's required. Space is limited.

May 18th 9 a.m. Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary

Join in celebrating the River Park at this 723 acre preserve. Open visitation: Guided nature hikes at 10:00AM and 1:30PM. The Preserve is open until 4:30PM. 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road. Host: San Diego Audubon Society

May 18th 10 a.m. Tierrasanta Canyon Hike

Explore one of San Diego's best kept secrets, the canyons of Tierrasanta and learn about efforts to restore them and create trail connections to the San Diego River. Option to have lunch at Admiral Baker Clubhouse. Host: Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons

May 18th 1 p.m. Rock Painting in the Habitat Garden at Ruffin Canyon

Help the Friends of Ruffin Canyon label native plants in the habitat garden by painting plant names on the rocks in the garden. No experience is necessary, a great event for families. Host: Friends of Ruffin Canyon

May 17 & 18 Barona Cultural Center and Museum

Visit this wonderful center dedicated to preserving the Native American culture and history of San Diego County. See the latest exhibits. Open Noon to 5 PM. Free Admission. 1095 Barona Road. Host: Barona Cultural Center and Museum

May 18th 10 a.m.—2 p.m. River Garden—Closing Event

Volunteers are needed for a major event! Help plant more than 1000 plants to beautify Mission Valley. Great family event. Groups are encouraged to join the fun. Host: San Diego River Park Foundation



CITY'S CREDIT RATINGS MAY BE RESTORED WITH COMPLETION OF '06 AUDIT

The City of San Diego has reached another important milestone in its efforts to restore its fiscal integrity and re-enter the public bond market, providing substantial savings to taxpayers on interest payments.

The City has received an unqualified opinion from its outside auditors, Macias Gini and O'Connell, that its 2006 financial statements accurately present the City's financial status. Both the Council's Audit Committee, of which I am a member, and the full City Council thoroughly reviewed the 2006 financial statements and the auditors' reports. While there continues to be work needed to ensure that recordkeeping and other internal controls on financial transactions meet best practices for municipal governments, the 2006 audit reflects that substantial progress has been made in resolving weaknesses of the past.

This is the fourth city audit to be issued in the past year, a remarkable accomplishment that was made possible through the commitment of the Office of the Mayor and the City Council to make these audits a City priority. The release of the Fiscal Year 2007 and 2008 audited financials are anticipated before the end of the calendar year. The new Disclosure Practices Working Group – comprised of representatives from the Mayor's financial staff, the Independent Budget Analyst, the City Attorney, City Auditor, and outside bond disclosure legal counsel – has played an important role in scrutinizing the information released in the financial statements to ensure that potential City

investors are fully informed of the City's financial situation.

The completion of the 2006 Audit is a critical milestone in restoring the City's credit rating. Many deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects have had to be placed on hold due to the City's inability to access the public bond market. Other projects have been financed through more expensive arrangements with private lenders.



The Mayor will now ask the agencies that issue credit ratings for governments – Standard and Poor's, Fisk, and Moody's – to consider upgrading our credit. These agencies are expected to review the audited financial statements and to consider the many steps the City has taken in recent years to accurately reflect City costs,

improve streamlining and accountability of internal financial systems, establish emergency reserves and to fund the City's obligations such as payments to the pension plan, workers compensation and other potential liabilities. The state of the local economy will also be a factor in the assessment of the City's ability to repay its bond obligations.

An indication of the City's improving financial reputation came in late March when Fitch Ratings revised San Diego's Rating Watch from Negative to Positive for the first time since May 2005, when the City's fiscal problems first began to surface.

PUBLIC SAFETY: A TOP PRIORITY

Public Safety Officials meet with residents to discuss crime prevention

Normal Heights

On April 16, 2008, I was pleased to be joined by Executive Assistant Chief David Ramirez, Assistant Chief Boyd Long, Acting Captain Monica Kaiser as well as other members of Mid-City Division Command at a public safety meeting located at the Normal Heights Community Center. The meeting was a unique opportunity for residents who are concerned about crime issues in the area to learn more about public safety efforts in Normal Heights and Kensington communities. Issues discussed included lighting, reporting suspicious activity, nuisance properties, setting up Neighborhood Watch and gang activity. I appreciate all of their hard work and commitment to make our neighborhoods safe. In addition, residents were reminded of safety tips—to lock windows and doors, protect their cars by keeping valuables out of sight, and walking in well lit areas. Thank to all of the residents who attended the meeting.



City Heights

On March 26, 2008, I had my second of three public safety meetings around the district. This one was at Wilson Middle School in City Heights. We had an amazing turn-out of community members! Those in attendance saw a gang education presentation and were brought up-to-date on current crime trends from Chief William Lansdowne, Executive Assistant Chief David Ramirez, Assistant Chief Boyd Long, Acting-Captain of Mid-City Division Monica Kaiser and Community Relations Officer Bernie Piceno. Issues of concern from residents ranged from street lights to nuisance properties and suspicious activities.



OLD HOUSE FAIR

The 10th Annual Old House Fair is taking place on Saturday, June 21st, 2008 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The event will take place along two blocks in South Park near the intersection of 30th & Beech Streets. The event includes a historic home tour, free half-hour design consultations, antique appraisals, walking tours, live music, children's activities and crafts, community booths, food vendors, local artists and restoration experts.

The Old House Fair Tour will be offered which features five historic homes in Golden Hill and South Park. Tickets for this self-guided tour are \$15 and can be purchased at the information booth.

Also, new this year, a walking tour will be offered by Urban Safaris that will last approximately 30 minutes will be filled with fun facts and history about the neighborhood. The tour is being offered to Old House Fair attendees for free (normal fee is \$10).

Angel Appraisers will also be returning to the Old House Fair to offer their mini version of the Antiques Road Show. There will be a cost of \$10 per item appraised. For those attendees that have design questions, a design consultant will be on site offering their expert advice.

Seventy exhibitors, including my office, and thousands of attendees are expected to attend and participate in this year's activities! Come and join us for what promises to be a fun event!



LAND USE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE TO HEAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE DEMOLITION PERMIT PROCESS

At the January 23, 2008 Land Use and Housing Committee meeting, I requested that the Mayor's office bring back recommendations that strengthen the City's demolition permit process for structures over 45 years of age and provide a greater opportunity for public review and notice. These recommendations will be presented to the Land Use and Housing Committee on May 21, 2008. The meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. at:

**The City Administration Building
202 'C' Street
12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101**



Additionally, I advocated for additional training for staff and included in my FY09 budget priorities, funding for an additional staff with historical resources expertise to review permits.

I am optimistic that we will make progress on this issue and I look forward to the opportunity to improve the demolition permit process so that we can preserve the historical resources and rich character, unique to many District Three communities.

UPTOWN PLANNERS ELECTIONS



On March 4, 2008, Uptown Planners held their annual board elections. Committee members dedicate countless hours of their valuable time to help improve the Uptown community and I want to thank the outgoing members for their outstanding volunteer efforts and leadership.

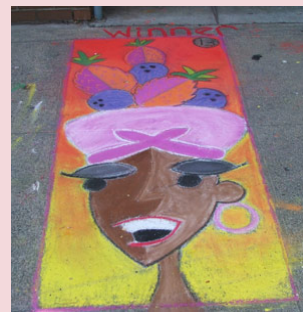
This year's outgoing members are: Mike Singleton, Ian Eply, Alex Sachs, and Erin Mathews. I also want to extend congratulations and appreciation to the newly elected board members: Ernie Bonn, University Heights; John Lamb, Bankers Hill/ Park West, James Mellos, Middleton/ Mission Hills, Michael Seidel, Hillcrest.

A special thank you to re-elected incumbents: Roy Dahl, Hillcrest, Steven Satz, University Heights, and Leo Wilson (chair), Bankers Hill/ Park West- your continued commitment is a tremendous asset to the community.

TWELFTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Sunday, May 18th, North Park Main Street will host the twelfth Annual Spring Festival of the Arts from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in downtown North Park, along University Avenue, between 30th and 32nd Streets. This neighborhood event includes an array of arts, culture, food and entertainment. Previous years' attendance topped over 35,000, drawing San Diegans from all over the county to North Park.

For further information about this exciting event, please contact North Park Main Street at 619-294-2501.



KENSINGTON SIGN DESIGNATED HISTORIC

On April 24th the City of San Diego's Historical Resources Board (HRB) held a noticed public hearing to consider the historical resources designation for the Kensington sign, adjacent to 4121 Adams Avenue. At the hearing, the HRB board voted unanimously to designate the sign (7-0 vote).

The Kensington Talmadge Community Association (KTCA) has received a \$40,000 grant from the County and has collected close to \$50,000 from community members to create a new sign. The KTCA is currently working with the Heart of Kensington and SOHO in an attempt to preserve the current sign and create a new sign as a gateway into the community. Discussions are ongoing.



FOCUS: A GALA CELEBRATION OF GREATER GOLDEN HILL



Join the Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC) on June 6, 2008 for a great night to benefit the community!

The GGHCDC is hosting a Gala Celebration at the Old Firehouse, located at the intersection of 30th & Juniper Streets, featuring live music, food from our best neighborhood restaurants, a silent auction, an exhibit of historic photographs and a black and white photo booth! The Old Firehouse, abandoned for decades, is currently being restored. The GGHCDC will be showcasing the food of our local restaurants with various stations featuring four to six dishes each from restaurants including Vagabond, Alexander's, the South Park Bar and Grill, Nick and Lola's and more. Tickets are \$75 per person and benefit the Greater Golden Hill Community. Contact the GGHCDC at (619) 696-9992 for more information.

A NEW WATER FOUNTAIN INSTALLED AT THE MORLEY FIELD LEASH FREE AREA

I had the opportunity to join the Morley Field Canine Council on April 26th to dedicate a new drinking fountain for dogs at the Morley Field dog park. The \$12,000 project was spearheaded by the Canine Council with donations from individual donors and businesses, the Friends of Balboa Park, and the Petco Foundation. Park and Recreation staff provided the trenching and water hook-ups for the project. The drinking fountain was an instant hit with the dogs that joined us at the Saturday morning event.



TALMADGE RECEIVES FIRESAFE GRANT

On April 25, 2008, at Kit Carson Park in Escondido, Kathy Finn, Talmadge resident and community leader, accepted a \$75,800 county grant on behalf of the Talmadge FireSafe Council (TFSC). Last year TFSC worked with local, state and federal Fire departments and the community to achieve FireSafe status, which allowed the community to be eligible for many county and federal grants. Talmadge is a pioneer in southern California, and one of the first communities to attain the FireSafe status! Congratulations on the grant and thank you for all of the hard work you continue to do throughout Talmadge!



TWO LARGE PARKING LOTS IN BALBOA PARK REPAVED

Two large parking lots in Balboa Park - the upper Inspiration Point lot near the Veterans Memorial Center, and the Federal Building lot behind the Hall of Champions were repaved in late April. These much-needed repairs are the first set of roadway and parking lot improvements expected to be underway throughout the park.



WORK ON BALBOA PARK ORNAMENTATION CONTINUES



In the next few weeks, the scaffolding on the California Tower above the Museum of Man will be removed, exposing repairs to the beautiful Ornamentation on all four sides of the tower. Staff indicated that the scaffolding will be removed by the end of May. Work continues on the facade of the Museum of Art. A crane will be installed to raise large pieces of the facade into place with work expected to be completed by mid-summer. The Museum of Art continues to be open throughout construction.

BALBOA PARK TRUST: CONTINUING STEWARDSHIP OF BALBOA PARK

Mayor Sanders and I were honored to participate in a press conference sponsored by the San Diego Foundation on May 5th to recognize some important milestones and changes to the organization. The San Diego Foundation has changed the name of their Balboa Park Endowment Funds to the Balboa Park Trust, which serves as the umbrella name for all 22 funds providing resources that benefit the park. They also announced an important benchmark - over \$1million has been granted by the Balboa Park Trust to fund much-needed infrastructure improvements and special projects throughout the park. The press conference was held in front of the Bea Evenson fountain on the Prado. The location is significant as Balboa Park Trust provided funding to Park and Recreation to purchase a new pump and motor for the fountain when the old motor failed.

The Balboa Park Trust is currently working on two projects - one will update the park's trail system with signage and markers, and the other will remove the concrete from the old shuffleboard courts and reconfigure the area for other more popular uses. Work on both projects is anticipated to begin shortly and when completed will provide more recreational opportunities to the public.



District Three Neighborhood Meetings

City Heights

Azalea Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2596 Violet Street at 6:30pm. Contact: info@azaleapark.org.

Cherokee Point Neighborhood Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday at 6:30pm, Cherokee Point Elementary School, 3735 38th Street. Contact: (619) 285-1611.

City Heights Community Development Corporation: Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at 4283 El Cajon Boulevard. Contact: (619) 584-1535.

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 3850 Westgate Place at 6:30pm. Contact: FairmountPark92105@yahoo.com.

Mid-City Rotary Club: Meets every Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm at the Pearson Ford Regional Transportation Center, 4001 El Cajon Blvd.

Contact: Eveardo.Aguilar@sdcountry.ca.gov

South Castle Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at Flo-Jo Elementary, 4271 Myrtle Avenue. Contact: (619) 284-3118.

Swan Canyon: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 3120 Euclid Avenue at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: rebecca@bairfinancial.com.

Teralta Concerned Citizens Association: Meets every 4th Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Fairmount Community Church, 4100 Fairmount Avenue.

Contact: (619)584-2360

Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance: Meets the first Thursday of the month at 4283 El Cajon Blvd. at 6:00pm. Contact: (619) 283-7815.

Golden Hill

Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC): Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Moose Lodge, 1648 30th Street, beginning at 6:30pm. Contact: (619) 696-9992.

Kensington

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association: meets every third Wednesday at the Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, beginning at 7pm. (dinner for a reasonable price is served prior)

Normal Heights

Normal Heights Cultural Council: Meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

North Park

Altadena Neighborhood Association: Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at Santos Coffee at Thorn and 32nd streets. Contact: (619) 280-6662.

Burlingame Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at different locations each month. Contact: dbyrne4bna@cox.net.

North Park Community Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. Contact: info@northparksd.org

South Park

The South Park Action Council: Meetings are held quarterly. For information or future meeting dates, e-mail Co-Chairs: Samantha Keenan at samkeen@cox.net or Connie McDonough at conniemcdonough@cox.net.

Talmadge

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association (see Kensington)

The Talmadge Community Council (TCC): Meets every third Tuesday at 4725 Lucille Drive beginning at 6:30pm.

University Heights

The University Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC): Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the CDC office located at 4452 Park Blvd, Suite 104, at 6:30pm.

The University Heights Crime Watch and Neighborhood Association: Meets on the first Thursday of the month at Alice Birney School Auditorium, 4345 Campus Avenue. Crime Watch at 6:30pm; UHNA at 7:00pm.

Uptown

Bankers Hill/Park West Community Association: meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at St. Paul's Community Care Center located at 328 Maple Street. Entry is through the parking lot on the west side of the building. Contact: EucalyptusAlert@aol.com

Hillcrest Town Council: meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30—8:30pm at Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue, Uptown District Shopping Center next to Aladdin Restaurant. Contact: (619) 260-1929 or www.hillcresttowncouncil.com.

District Three

Community Meetings & Staff Information

MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30 a.m. Contact: 619/282-7329.

City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Wednesday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Metro Career Center Community Room, 3910 University Avenue. Phone: 619/516-2282.

El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association

3727 El Cajon Boulevard Meets the third Thursday of the month, 11:30 a.m. Contact: 619/283-3608.

Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00 p.m. Contact: 619/299-3330.

North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 a.m. Contact: 619/294-2501.

MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

North Park Project Area Committee

California Nat'l Bank, 3180 University Ave., 2nd Floor Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m. Contact: Dawn Griffin, Chair, at queenphenix@msn.com.

City Heights Project Area Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Ave. Meets the second Monday of the month, 6 p.m. Contact: Karen Bucey, Chair, 619/957-5818.

DISTRICT THREE STAFF

Denise Price, Chief of Staff.

Dale Kelly Bankhead, Committee Consultant to the Committee on Budget and Finance. Communications Director; LGBT community liaison; HIV/AIDS issues.

Amy Benjamin, Council Representative to Uptown and Hillcrest. Policy issues include housing, canyon preservation, citywide land use and planning, solid waste/recycling. Staff to SANDAG Regional Planning and Housing committees.

April Chesebro, Council Representative to Kensington, Talmadge South Park/Golden Hill and University Heights; Constituent Services Representative to North Park, Normal Heights, South Park and Golden Hill; African-American community liaison; Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and senior issues; Resolution/Proclamation Coordinator.

Pam Ison, Council Representative to City Heights; liaison to Asian/Pacific Islander community. Policy issues include citywide redevelopment; business and downtown issues; school liaison and education issues; homeless, women's, youth and health issues; parks and recreation; Chargers/Qualcomm Stadium; Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); newsletter; webpage.

Cheli Mohamed, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Atkins and Chief of Staff Denise Price.

Kim Nguyen, Council Representative to City Heights; Constituent Services Representative to Uptown: liaison to Vietnamese-American Community and Gang Commission.

Monica Pelaez, Press Secretary/Council Representative to North Park and Normal Heights; liaison to the Latino community; Police Department liaison and public safety issues; Fire and Life Safety Services liaison; Council Docket Coordinator; newsletter.

Jeffery Tom, Council Representative to Balboa Park. Staff to Metropolitan Transit System and BID Council; Policy issues include Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), libraries, infrastructure, arts and culture, energy, telecommunications, water & sewer issues.

MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.). Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Contact: Vicki Granowitz, Chair: 619/584-1203 or vdgwrl@aol.com.

City Heights Area Planning Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Avenue. Meets the first Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Varnadore, Chair, 619/280-3910.

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill. Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. or the city staff member at 619/533-5284.

Contact: Chris Blatt, Chair, csblatt@exateck.com

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way. Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Contact: Rob Steppke, Chair, arebeestep@netzero.net.

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, 619/287-3157.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard. Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Jim Baross, Chair, JimBaross@cox.net.

Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District. Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Contact: Leo Wilson, Chair, 619/574-0109.